

Message Text

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ACTION OC-05

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R 100800Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8753

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1525

STADIS //

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MILI, TW

SUBJECT: DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITY ON TAIWAN

REF: (A) TAIPEI 1499, (B) CINCPAC 060156Z MAR 76

1. BACKGROUND FYI: THE US MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM ON TAIWAN SERVES TWO FUNCTIONS: 1) IT PROVIDES CONNECTING CHANNELS FOR THE OKINAWA/TAIWAN/PHILIPPINE LINK OF THE WESPAC BACKBONE CIRCUIT WHICH PASSES THROUGH TAIWAN; 2) IT SERVES ON-ISLAND USG CUSTOMERS. BOTH MISSIONS REQUIRE ON-ISLAND SITES. THE CABLE TERMINAL AT MCCAULEY IS THE TERMINAL FOR OFF-ISLAND CIRCUITS FROM THE NORTH AND THE JUZON TROPOSCATTER SITE NEAR KAOHSIUNG IS THE TERMINAL FOR OFF-ISLAND CIRCUITS FROM THE SOUTH. ON TAIWAN THE CIRCUITS PASS THROUGH A NUMBER OF SITES BETWEEN MCCAULEY AND JUZON. THERE ARE SPURS WHICH CONNECT THE BACKBONE SYSTEM ON-ISLAND WITH INDIVIDUAL CONSUMERS SUCH AS TDC AND THE EMBASSY.

2. IN COURSE OF PREPARING EMBASSY'S REPLY (REF A) TO REF B ON RECONFIGURATION OF EXISTING PHILIPPINES/ TAWAN/OKINAWA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD OCCASION TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY'S (CDA) CURRENT PLANNING FOR TAIWAN. WE LEARNED THAT JCS INSTRUCTED DCA ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO TO PLAN FOR ELIMINATION OF TAIWAN IN WESPAC BACKBONE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND DCA REPRESENTATIVE

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IN TAIWAN IS CURRENTLY HOLDING MEETINGS WITH LOCAL TELE-

COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION TO DISCUSS LEASING COMMERCIAL
CIRCUITS TO REPLACE SOME OR ALL OF EXISTING MILITARY NET
FOR ON-ISLAND COMMUNICATIONS.

3. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT DCA GUIDANCE, WE BELIEVE IT
STRANGE THAT DCA SHOULD BE CONSIDERING REPLACING OFF-
ISLAND LEASED CIRCUITS FROM JUZON TO THE PHILIPPINES
WITH MILITARY CIRCUITS WHILE CONSIDERING REPLACING ON-
ISLAND MILITARY CIRCUITS WITH LEASED CIRCUITS. WHILE
COST-SAVING TO USG OF APPROXIMATELY \$72,000 PER MONTH
(WITH INITIAL ONE-TIME EXPENDITURE OF \$15,000 FOR WORK
ON EXISTING USG SYSTEM) IS VERY PERSUASIVE, WE RECOMMEND
ENTIRE QUESTION OF RECONFIGURING US MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS
ACTIVITY ON TAIWAN BE REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF ANTICIPATED
FUTURE REDUCTIONS AND NEED TO MAINTAIN REQUIRED COMMUNI-
CATIONS CAPABILITY. UNGER

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